

THE CONSPIRACY OF EDWARD
SQUIRE

that he would put a service into his hands that Le
might accom-
plish without any evident peril of his lite And *-
was the
empoisonment of the pommel ot the Queens
saddle at Sudi
t.me as she should ride abroad, her Majestv
ce*ng lie to rest
her hand thereupon for a good time together,
ana not unl^e tor
her hand to come often about her face, mcnt^
and nostrils
Unto which accursed propositions, after that
Squire Una
absented, then did the Friar use all diligence to
confirm and b^na
him to resolution and performance, at sundrv
coniesbions
taLug his vow to be constant, and causing him to
receive the
sacrament upon it And for a conclusion and final
benediction
of this most execrable plot, Squire kneeling
beiore Walpoie at
confession, he lifted him up, hugged him about
the neck with
his leit arm (such were Squire's own words) and
crossing h*m
•with the other hand, after some words
mumbled in Latin,
said distinctly to him in English, * God bless
thee and give
thee strength, -my son , be of good courage I
pawn mv
soul for thine, and thou shalt have my prayers
dead and
alive'

Then Walpole gave him lull direction for the
disposing of the
poison, showing him that he should receive it in
a double
bladder, and when it should be used, he was to
prick the bladder
full of holes upon the upper part, and so carrj it
within the palm
of his hand with a thick glove for safeguard of
the hand Then
he should turn it in his hand upside down and so
press it hard
upon the pommel of the saddle

Squire, therefore, being arrived in England
about a fortnight
before the Earl of Essex's setting forth towards
the Islands,
addressed himself to a Councillor of estate, both
to avoid

suspicion and to advise a means to go with the
Earl in his ship ,
which indeed he did.

Now a se'nmght after he came out of Spain he
understood
that the horses were being made read7 for the
Queen's riding
abroad So he came into the stable yard where
her Majesty's
horse stood ready and in a familiar and cheerful
manner, in the
hearing of divers that stood by, he laid his hand
upon the
pommel of the saddle and said, * God save the
Queen', and
therewith bruised the poison as he was directed
But so it was
that her Majesty's going abroad was stayed